

ATLAS

MENACE

OCT.

MENACE

10¢

NO. 8



TALES OF
MADDENING
MENACE

HORROR!



FEAR!



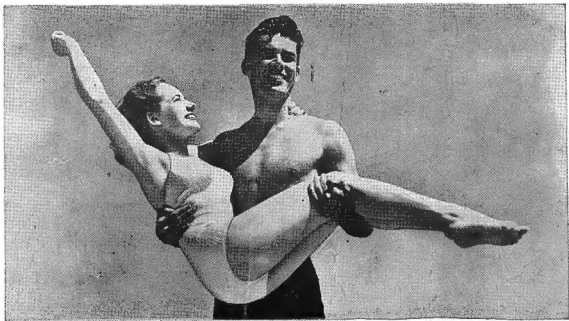
TERROR!



"THE LIZARD-MAN!"



**ON SALE
MONTHLY**



Skinny Girls Don't Have OOMPH!

It takes those extra lbs. of solid flesh to "bring out" your natural curves

If you're otherwise healthy but skinny, scrawny, rundown and lbs. underweight, try correcting this common mistake in eating.

THERE are three essential substances that many thin, scrawny and undernourished girls may fail to get in sufficient quantity from the food they eat. These substances are Vitamin B₁, calcium phosphate and iron. If, like thousands of others, you are underweight without organic cause . . . never seem to gain a pound . . . are so thin that you look gangling and gawky from insufficient amounts of these precious elements, don't get discouraged.

You may find that by correcting this simple mistake in eating you can easily add firm solid flesh . . . extra alluring pounds that help bring out those natural eye-catching curves. A simple and easy way is to try the amazing new product called Numal that supplies, in significant amounts, the Vitamin B₁, calcium phosphate and iron needed in the daily diet. Plus a food that in itself is a great help in adding extra pounds.

Take 1 heaping teaspoonful of Numal 3 times a day. It is pleasant, assimilable

If loss of weight persists see your doctor

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and easy to take. You will get the equivalent in Vitamin B₁ content of 54 cakes of average moist baker's yeast . . . the iron equivalent of 15 pounds of tomatoes or 1 1/3 pounds of spinach or 9 pounds of boiled beets . . . and the calcium equivalent of 4 1/2 pint of fresh cow's milk, the phosphorus content of 1 glass.

Remember, if you don't get a sufficient quantity of Vitamin B₁ in your daily diet, you may suffer loss of appetite. And without sufficient iron, the element that helps build rich red blood,

you may be rundown, pale, weak and listless. You need calcium phosphate for sound teeth and sturdy bones.

Numal Must Please You or No Cost

So if you are skinny, gangling and bony from lack of these precious nutrients, don't wait any longer. Get Numal today. You will want those extra pounds that "bring out" your natural eye-catching curves. Take Numal faithfully for a week. See if you can't actually feel the difference . . . gain weight and better color. If after this short period you honestly don't feel Numal has benefited you, just return the bottle for a complete refund of your money. Numal costs but a few cents a day to use.

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Address

City..... Zone..... State.....

NOTE: If you want to save all postal charges enclose \$2 check, money order or cash. We will pay all postal charges. Same money-back guarantee.

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HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT KIND OF CREATURES MAY INHABIT THE VAST REGIONS DEEP BELOW THE SURFACE OF OUR PLANET EARTH? WELL, IF YOU SHOULD EVER SPOT A CREEP LIKE ZRAA ZROMM COMING DOWN THE HIGHWAY, YOU'LL HAVE THE ANSWER!

THE LIZARD-MAN

YOU OOOZE OUT OF THE SOGGY, LAVA-DRENCHED EARTH AND LOOK AROUND YOU, ZRAA ZROMM! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN COUNTLESS CENTURIES THAT ONE OF YOU CREATURES FROM THE CENTER OF THE EARTH HAS COME TO THE SURFACE!

*By Stanley
and
Joe Maneck*

YOU SLITHER ALONG THE GROUND TRYING TO ACCUSTOM YOUR NITROGEN GILLS TO THE UGLY, UNBEARABLE STENCH OF THE NAUSEATING AIR...



YOUR SPEED IS UNBELIEVABLY FAST! AFTER BURROWING THRU THE HEAVY GRAVITY OF THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH, THE SURFACE ATMOSPHERE SEEMS ALMOST GRAVITYLESS TO YOU!



A TALE OF
MADDENING
MENACE!

YOU REALIZE THAT YOU'RE APPROACHING A TOWN! THOSE SMALL WOODEN THINGS AHEAD MUST BE BUILDINGS, AND THOSE WEAK-LOOKING, TWO-LEGGED CREATURES... THEY MUST BE THE DOMINANT RACE ON EARTH!



IT TURNS FROM YOU AND RUNS TOWARD THE CENTER OF TOWN AS FAST AS ITS INEFFECTUAL LITTLE LEGS CAN CARRY IT! YOU, ZRAA ZROOM, COULD CATCH IT IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, BUT YOU'RE IN NO HURRY! YOU HAVE MUCH TO SEE... MUCH TO LEARN!



MINUTES LATER, A LARGER CREATURE COMES TOWARD YOU! IT'S BIG AND BLACK, AND MUCH FASTER THAN THE SMALL HUMAN WHO JUST FLED IN TERROR!



SUDDENLY, ONE OF THE TINY CREATURES SEES YOU! IT'S HORRIBLE-LOOKING FEATURES CONCERT INTO A LOOK OF SHEER TERROR!



I... I MUST BE LOSIN' MY MIND! WH-WHAT IS IT?

SUDDENLY IT STOPS, AND FROM WITHIN IT, FIVE HUMANS POUR OUT, HOLDING SMALL, MENACING-LOOKING STICKS!



THERE IT IS! SEE? I WASN'T DREAMIN'!

WE GOTTA CAPTURE IT AND BRING IT BACK ALIVE!

IF IT GETS AWAY, NOBODY'LL EVER BELIEVE US!

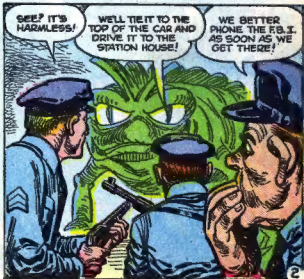
BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, THE LITTLE CREATURES HAVE SURROUNDED YOU, BUT YOU MAKE NO MOVE... YOU'RE TOO BUSY LISTENING TO THEIR STRANGE LANGUAGE, INTEGRATING IT INTO YOUR VAST, CENTURIES-OLD BRAIN!



WE GOT 'IM NOW!

MAYBE IT'S SOMEONE ADVERTISING SOMETHING!

YOU MOVE BACK, SENSING THAT THEY'RE TRYING TO HERD YOU TOWARD THE LARGE, BLACK, 4-WHEELED THING WHICH WAITS SILENTLY BEHIND YOU!



SEE? IT'S HARMLESS!

WE'LL TIE IT TO THE TOP OF THE CAR AND DRIVE IT TO THE STATION HOUSE!

WE BETTER PHONE THE F.B.I. AS SOON AS WE GET THERE!

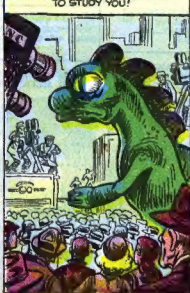
BY NOW, YOUR AMAZINGLY ADVANCED INTELLECT HAS DISSECTED THE HUMANS' SIMPLE LANGUAGE, AND YOU ARE ABLE TO CONVERSE WITH THEM, WITHIN THE LIMITATIONS OF YOUR SUB-SURFACE VOCAL CORDS...



WITHIN HOURS, THE NEWSPAPERS OF THE WORLD HAVE YOUR IMAGE ON THEIR FRONT PAGES, CROWDING OFF ALL MENTIONS OF WARS, POLITICS AND CRIME!

NEWSREEL AND T.V. CAMERAMEN... COMMENTATORS... MILITARY LEADERS... GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS... ALL FIGHT FOR A CHANCE TO GET NEAR YOU... TO STUDY YOU!

AND THRU IT ALL, ZRAA ZBROW, YOU REMAIN CALM, PEACEFUL... WAITING FOR YOUR CHANCE TO BE HEARD BY THE LEADERS OF EARTH!



FINALLY YOUR MOMENT COMES! AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IS CALLED, WITH YOU SCHEDULED TO BE THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER...



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... I GIVE YOU ZRAA ZROMM, FROM THE CENTER OF EARTH... WITH A MESSAGE FROM HIS PEOPLE, TO OURS!



YOU BEGIN TO SPEAK, SLOWLY AT FIRST... AND THEN GATHERING SPEED... YOU'VE LEARNED THE LANGUAGES OF THE EARTH WELL... YOU'VE LEARNED THE CUSTOMS... BUT YOU STILL CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE HEARTS AND EMOTIONS OF THE PEOPLE!



OUR LAND BELOW THE EARTH IS CROWDED... WE LACK ENOUGH FOOD... ENOUGH ROOM... WE MUST EXPAND! THE ONLY DIRECTION WE CAN GO IS UP!

YOU LOOK AROUND THE VAST HALL... YOU SEE THE EXPRESSIONS OF SHOCK... OF DISMAL... OF ANGER!

IT IS A DIRTY CAPITALIST TRICK TO STEAL SOVIET LAND!

IT JOLLY WELL SOUNDS LIKE A THREAT TO OUR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY!

IS HE KIDDIN'?

FIFTY MILLION FRENCHMEN WILL BE UP IN ARMS!

ANGRY SHOUTS DROWN OUT THE REST OF YOUR SPEECH! NEVER HAVE YOU SEEN SUCH HATRED ON THE FACES OF ANY LIVING CREATURES! YOU CAN'T FATHOM IT... ARE THE SURFACE-DWELLERS INSANE?

SEND 'EM BACK WHERE HE CAME FROM!

BOMB 'EM OUTTA THEIR HOLES!

IT'S A DECLARATION OF WAR! BUT THEY CAN'T SCARE US!



YOU KEEP SPEAKING... YOU TRY TO EXPLAIN YOUR POSITION... THEY'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND!



CAN'T YOU SEE? I'M NOT THREATENING AN INVASION! I'M MERELY ASKING FOR A PLACE FOR MY PEOPLE! SURELY THERE'S SOME SPOT ON THE SURFACE OF THIS GREAT PLANET WHERE WE MAY FIND A HOME!

YOU CAN STAND NO MORE! YOUR TEMPER HAS BEEN STRAINED PAST ENDURANCE! YOU PUSH PAST THE GUARDS AT YOUR SIDES AND STORM THRU THE HALL... BRUSHING DELEGATES ASIDE LIKE TENPINS!

STUPID LITTLE CREATURES! I HAVE LOST MY PATIENCE WITH YOU!

DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY! STOP HIM!



YOU SLITHER INTO THE STREET AT EXPRESS-TRAIN SPEED!
CARS, LAIMPOTS, PEOPLE...ALL ARE HURLED ASIDE IN
YOUR MAD FURY!



THEY FIRE STRANGE LITTLE PELLETS AT YOU
AND DROP HUGE EXPLOSIVES! THE WEAPONS
CAN'T HARM THE SKIN WHICH HAS BEEN
HARDENED BY CENTURIES OF BURROWING
THRU ROCK, AND FLAME, AND STONE...BUT
THE MURDEROUS ATTACK ANNOYS YOU
BEYOND MEASURE!



YOU TEAR BACK TO THE
CITY AND HEAD FOR THE
ASSEMBLY HALL...



FINALLY YOU REACH AN OPEN FIELD...YOUR ANGER IS SPENT!
YOU STOP TO REST FOR A MOMENT AND THEN YOU HEAR IT...THE
SOUND OF A MILLION ANGRY HORNETS...UP IN THE SKY!



YOU SHOUT TO THE MEMBERS WHO STILL HAVEN'T
LEFT...WORDS WHICH WILL BE REMEMBERED AS
LONG AS MEN REMAIN ON EARTH...



YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE!
YOU TURNED IT DOWN!
FOR AGES WE THOUGHT
YOU HUMANS WERE OUR
FRIENDS...WE HELD BACK
THE MUNTOSSEO FOR
YOU...ONLY WE PREVENTED
THE MUNTOSSEO FROM
DESTROYING THE
SURFACE OF EARTH!

BUT NOW WE WILL HELP
YOU NO LONGER! NOW WE
WILL LEAVE YOU TO THE
MERCY OF THE MUNTOSSEO!
AND THEN, WHEN HUMAN
GENES ARE GONE
FROM THE EARTH,
WE WILL OCCUPY
IT ALONE! I
HAVE SPOKEN!

GOOD
HEAVENS!
WHAT IS THE
MUNTOSSEO?

IGNORE
HIM! IT'S
JUST A
BLUFF!

HE'S TRYING TO
SCARE US INTO
ACCEPTING HIM!



YOU TURN TOWARD THE FLOOR AND START TO BURROW BACK
DOWN TO YOUR PEOPLE...CUTTING THRU THE CONCRETE AND
THE STONE AS IF THEY ARE BUT PAPER!



YOU'LL NEVER SEE ONE OF US AGAIN...
UNTIL THE HUMANS HAVE VANISHED
FROM EARTH!

A SMILE COMES TO YOUR LIPS AS YOU REALIZE THE SURFACE DWELLERS DON'T REALIZE WHAT THE MUNTOSOS ARE! BUT THEY'LL FIND OUT!

IT DOESN'T TAKE YOU LONG TO REACH YOUR OWN PEOPLE! A COMMITTEE IS AWAITING YOUR RETURN...

AT A SIGNAL, THE HUGE CENTRAL CONTROL WHEEL WHICH AFFECTS A CHAIN OF BARRIERS UNDER THE ENTIRE EARTH, IS TURNED...FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE GLACIAL AGE!



YOU ARE BACK SOON, ZRAA ZRONKA! HAVE YOU GOOD THINGS?

I WAS MET WITH HATRED AND DISTRUST!

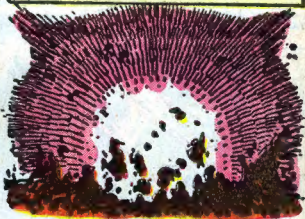
IT IS AS WE FEARED! THERE IS NOTHING TO DO BUT RELEASE CONTROL OF THE MUNTOSOS!



THEN, ALL EYES ARE TURNED UPWARD AS YOU AND THE MILLIONS LIKE YOU, WAIT FOR THE MUNTOSOS TO BREAK FREE AND OVERRUN THE SURFACE!

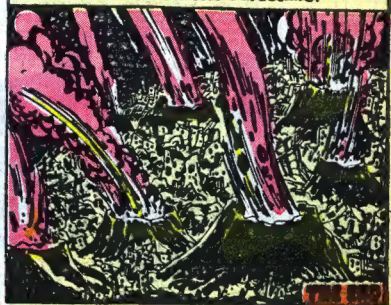


A ROAR, LOUDER THAN THE BUST OF A THOUSAND H-BOMBS, BOMBS OVER THE SURFACE! THE MUNTOSOS ARE HEARD FROM THE POLES TO THE EQUATOR!



YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE WAIT FOR A FEW DAYS, SURFACE TIME, AND THEN BEGIN THE LONG JOURNEY SURFACEWARD! NOW THAT THE MUNTOSOS HAVE DONE THEIR WORK, YOU WILL CONTROL THEM AGAIN AS YOU'VE DONE FOR AGES—UNKNOWN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SURFACE!

YOU BAD THE HUMANS NEVER TOOK THE TIME TO FIND OUT THAT THEIR WORD FOR MUNTOSOS IS...VOLCANO!

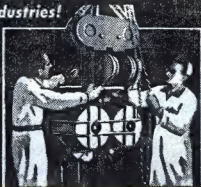


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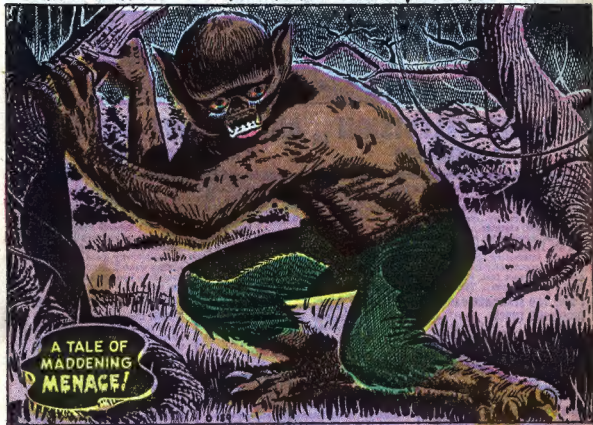
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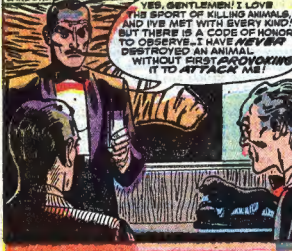
NAME _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____
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☐ Check here if interested in Graduate Training at Los Angeles.

MOST PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF THE "BIG BAD WOLF," SO WE DECIDED TO TRY A SWITCHEROO...IN THIS TALE, IT'S THE WOLF...ER, THAT IS, **WEREWOLF**... WHO SEEMS TO BE COWARDLY! THE BEAST'S **REASON** WILL SHOCK YOU!

THE WEREWOLF WAS AFRAID



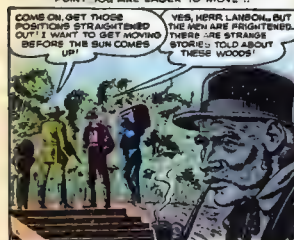
THE HUNTER IS AN EMOTIONAL MAN OF DEEP HATREDS AND VIOLENCE THAT CAN ONLY BE EASED IN THE EXCITEMENT OF THE KILL...YOU ARE SUCH A MAN, ERIC LANSON.



YOUR BOAST THAT YOU GOAD THE ANIMAL TO ATTACK, YOU FIRST WINS THE APPROVAL OF THE OTHER SPORTSMEN, BUT YOUR NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT STARTLES THEM.



IN A SHORT TIME THE HUNTING PARTY IS ORGANIZED IN AUSTRIA. YOU CHECK YOUR AIDS AT THE JUMPING OFF POINT YOU ARE EAGER TO MOVE...



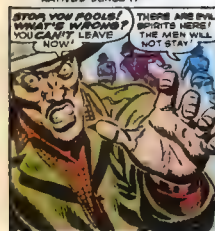
IN SPIRIT OF THEIR FEARS, THEY HEAD DEEP INTO THE BLACK WOODS THAT HOLD A DAMPENESS OF ASSES IN THE ROTTING UNDERGROWTH. TENSION MOUNTS IN YOU, ERIC LANGSON...



YES, CLOSER TO THE ANCIENT HOME OF YOUR WEIRD PREY. THE MEN WHO ARE ALSO WOLVES... AND THE AUSTRIAN NATIVES SENSE IT!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE MEN ARE GONE AND YOU ARE ALONE IN THE UNFAMILIAR WILDERNESS.

A SIXTH SENSE TELLS YOU THAT YOU ARE NEAR YOUR QUARRY, AND INSTINCTIVELY YOU RAISE YOUR RIFLE TO YOUR SHOULDER...



BUT A SCENE GREETS YOUR EYES THAT ALL OF YOUR YEARS OF HUNTING HAVE NOT PREPARED YOU FOR!



IT'S TRUE... A SCENE THAT NO LIVING MAN HAS EVER SEEN BEFORE! THE MOST FEARFUL, TERRIFYING CREATURE THAT MAN HAS KNOWN... AND WHAT IS IT DOING?





THIS IS INCREDIBLE! I COULD KNOCK HIM OFF EASILY, BUT HOW CAN I KILL A CREATURE THAT'S READING POETRY AND SMELLING FLOWERS?



COME ON! ATTACK ME, YOU STUPID WEREWOLF! FIGHT!

OH, YOU ENGLISHMAN ARE ALL ALIKE! GO AWAY AND STOP BOTHERING ME! CAN'T YOU SEE AM BUSY?



COME ON! YOU'RE AFRAID! COME ON, FIGHT! LIKE A...A...A...WHATEVER YOU ARE! I'M WAITING!

YOU'RE BORING ME, LITTLE MAN! GO AWAY AND PLAY WITH YOUR TOYS SOMEWHERE ELSE!



ALL RIGHT! YOU FIGHT, YOU VILE CREATURE! YOU DON'T HAVE AN OUNCE OF PRIDE IN YOU, OR YOU'D TRY TO KILL ME AT ONCE!

YOU'RE A FOOL! NOW FOR THE LAST TIME, LEAVE ME ALONE AND GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM! I DON'T INTEND TO ALLOW A SAD-MANNERED ENGLISHMAN TO MAKE ME ANGRY...YOU'RE A CAD!



THE THOUGHT OF BEING TRICKED OUT OF YOUR GLASSY BY A POETRY-READING WEREWOLF MAKES YOU FUME WITH ANGER...



YOUR BLOOD BOILS AS YOU THINK OF WHAT THE MEMBERS BACK AT THE CLUB WOULD SAY...



AND THE RAGE WITHIN YOU BEGINS TO DRIVE YOU MAD WITH THE VIOLENT DESIRE TO KILL...



THE DESIRE THAT BURNS DEEPER AND DEEPER WITHIN YOU UNTIL YOU FEEL YOURSELF CONSUMED WITH FIRE!

KILL! KILL! KILL! KILL!

BUT SUDDENLY WITHOUT WARNING, THE WEREWOLF CHARGES AT YOU, ERIC LANSON, KNOCKING YOUR GUN OUT OF REACH...

WHAT TH'PP
MY GUN- YOU'VE
BROKEN IT!

YOU'VE SHOUTED SOME
PRETTY NASTY THINGS
AT MR. ENGLISHMAN! NOW
WE'LL SEE HOW BRAVE
YOU ARE *WITHOUT*
YOUR SILVER
BULLETS!



NO! NO! P... PLEASE
DON'T KILL ME! I'LL DO
ANYTHING!

HEH! HEH! NOW
LET'S SEE WHO'S
A COWARD... YOU'VE
REALLY GIVEN ME
QUITE AN
APPETITE!



SLOWLY THE WEREWOLF MOVES
FORWARD, ITS HOT BREATH SEARING
YOUR FACE...

NOW YOU'RE REALLY
HOT UNDER THE
COLLAR!



SALIVA DRIPS FROM THE HUNGRY
FANGS AS THE WOLFMAN CLOSES
IN ON HIS TRAPPED PREY...

ALL THAT
EXCITEMENT MADE
YOUR BLOOD BOIL,
DIDN'T IT?



CLOSER AND CLOSER TO YOU, ERIC
LANSON, HE STALKS, SNARLING WITH
UNLEASHED APPETITE...

YOU WERE BURNING UP,
BURNING TO KILL ME!



A TERRIFIED SCREAM OF PAIN, AS THE WEREWOLF
ATTACKS, AND THEN A MOMENT OF SILENCE, BROKEN
ONLY BY THE DISTANT HOOTING OF AN OWL...

NOW YOU'RE
REALLY
READY!



IT ALWAYS WORKS WITH
THOSE FOOLISH ENGLISHMEN! I
JUST HAVE TO WAIT TILL THEY
GET ALL STEAMED UP, BLOOD
BOILING AND HOT UNDER THE
COLLAR! AND I ALWAYS
PREFER THAT TO A
COLD MEAL!



THE END



FOR THE BEST IN SUSPENSE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER!



THE COLLECTOR

HIS name was Gregory Lewis. Those who had the misfortune to come into contact with him said he was half-mad. A man as rich as Lewis was should have devoted his time and money to more worthwhile pursuits. What did Gregory Lewis do with his fortune? He collected things . . . not stamps or coins or rare books. Nothing as simple as that! His greatest obsession was to collect instruments of torture as well as their victims! In a special room in his mansion Lewis had a varied collection of medieval torture instruments, such as the Iron Maiden, the bone-stretching rack, whipping posts. He also had quite a collection of hangman's nooses, which had strangled the life from countless highway robbers, horse thieves, and pirates. And of course he had a genuine guillotine which had ended the lives of many noble Frenchmen rather abruptly during the Revolution and Reign of Terror in France.

We indicated that Lewis also collected the "victims" of torture and cruel punishment. He had shrunken heads from the South American jungles, mummified corpses of guillotine and gallows victims. Is it any wonder that his acquaintances labeled him as mad? Would any man in his right mind devote his time and fortune to such a macabre collection? And so Gregory Lewis took delight in his possessions . . . articles which repelled all others who were granted the doubtful privilege of viewing his weird assortment of torture instruments and victims.

And yet there was a certain source of frustration for the mad collector. What good did these torture instruments do him, he

often thought to himself, if he could not make use of them himself? So one day he took a stroll along the Bowery and looked over the penniless human derelicts lying in doorways or in the gutter. He singled out one man who seemed to avoid companionship with the others. Lewis approached him and offered him work on his estate. Lewis was surprised at the man's ready acceptance. He always thought most of these penniless men preferred to maintain their precarious existence rather than do any kind of work. Lewis drove the man to his country estate, showed him to a small room above the garage where he could sleep, and left him for the night. Then Lewis made his way to his special room where the instruments of torture were kept. His eyes fell on a whipping post. Just the thing, the madman thought. It's one form of punishment I can make use of without maiming or killing the man.

The next day, Lewis told his new employee to clean up the cellar. All through the day, Lewis visualized the pleasure he would have whipping his servant for not doing his work properly! And so it was that at the end of the day, instead of feeding his new manservant, Lewis grabbed him and bound him to the whipping post in his torture room! Lewis raised the whip and struck once . . . twice . . . three times. He was amazed to see that his victim did not flinch or scream in pain! This man was depriving Lewis of the pleasure of punishing him. The madman threw aside the whip. He must know more about this man, he thought. So he commanded his victim, still bound to the whipping post,

to reveal who he was and where he came from. The man told a strange story.

His name was Mariak and he was the son of the old chief of the Okalie Indian tribe! He was therefore of "royal blood" as far as Indian custom and culture were concerned. Mariak further revealed that he had been ostracized by his chieftain father for denying the sacred powers of the gods of his tribe. He had smashed the tribe's sacred Totem Pole in a fit of anger. Because of his rash act, he had to do penance by wandering the earth until he fulfilled a certain task put on him by his father. Mariak refused to tell Lewis what this certain task was. But during his wandering, Mariak had come to believe in the sanctity and power of his tribe's gods and the omnipotence of the Totem Pole.

Lewis burst into laughter. He told the Indian that his people were a dying race and would soon be obliterated from the face of the earth. These words incensed Mariak and he cursed Lewis, saying that the gods of the sacred Totem Pole would avenge this insult. Lewis insisted that the Okalies were not an honorable tribe. For example, he was willing to prove that with his money he could buy the tribe's so-called sacred Totem Pole. In fact, Lewis suddenly had a desire to own the Totem Pole and add it to his weird collection. He released Mariak, telling him he could continue his wanderings. He, Lewis, would pay a visit to the Okalies around the Lake Superior region and buy their Totem Pole! So Mariak left the madman's estate, while Lewis took the next train to his destination.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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Romances!

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...CONTINUED

When Lewis arrived in the region inhabited by the Okalies, he questioned the people who lived in the nearby towns. They verified Mariak's claim that these Indians held their Totem Pole in high reverence, and that the chief had ostracized his own son for denying the sanctity of the tribe's gods and smashing their sacred Totem. These people also had heard that Mariak had to perform a certain task before he would be welcomed back among his own people. But no one knew what his secret task was. Lewis was determined to learn the secret from the old chief himself.

And so, the following afternoon, Lewis went to the Okalie reservation. He had armed himself with a gun, just in case he had to "persuade" the chief to surrender the Totem Pole to him. On the reservation, he demanded an audience with the old chief. He was led to the chief's big council chamber and presented to the old man. Lewis was pleased to see the Totem Pole in this hut. He noticed that the topmost figure on the pole was missing. This must have been the result of Mariak's rash act of

smashing the sacred Totem.

Lewis wasted no words. He told the chief how he had met his son on the Bowery with other human derelicts, how he had taken him to his estate and whipped him. How he had told Mariak that he would defy his people by gaining possession of the Totem which they regarded as sacred and omnipotent. Lewis offered to buy the object. But he knew what the old chief would say. The latter was enraged at this offer to buy their sacred Totem and ordered Lewis to leave. Lewis took out his gun. If the chief would not commit the sacrilege of selling the pole, then Lewis would simply take it away with him anyway! He fired the gun into the air, just to frighten the old man. This brought other young braves on the run into the council chamber.

They seized Lewis before he could shoot them down. Then the old man spoke. "My son Mariak has accomplished the task of penance I set on him. He has sent me the cruelist mortal his eyes have seen! Now my son can return to his people!"

There was an air of horror in

the chamber, and as the young Indians tightened their grip on Lewis, he fainted from fright! The next night, Mariak returned to the reservation. Knowing that Lewis had come among his people, he knew he had accomplished the secret task put upon him by his father. The old chief welcomed him.

"You have done your penance," the chief said. "Indeed you have sent us the most cruel mortal among living men, as I commanded you. The Totem Pole which you smashed is now whole again, for we have replaced the head which you destroyed . . . the personification of our god of evil!"

And then a tribal ceremony began, and the repaired Totem Pole was lifted aloft for all to see. And there, atop the new Totem Pole, rested the mummified head of Gregory Lewis, with its distorted and terrified face. Yes, he was the new personification of their god of evil . . . he was the new high man on the tribe's Totem Pole!

THE END D-272

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NOW HERE'S A WEIRDIE ABOUT **ANOTHER** CHARACTER WHO'S **HUNTING** FOR SOMETHING...A **NEW FACE!** AND BELIEVE US, KIDDIES...**THIS CREEP REALLY NEEDS ONE!** UGH! STRANGELY ENOUGH, THE CHANCE FOR A NEW "KISSER" COMES HIS WAY, BUT POOR **DERCK** MUFFS IT, BUT **GODD!**

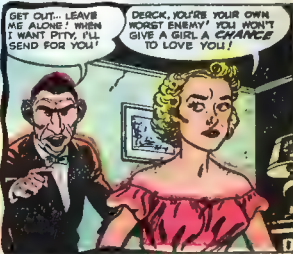
THE FACE OF HORROR

FOR 37 YEARS NO WOMAN'S LIPS HAVE TOUCHED YOURS IN A LOVING KISS! NO WOMAN'S EYES HAVE LOOKED INTO YOURS WITH AFFECTION AND LONGING! NO WOMAN'S ARMS HAVE HELD YOU TIGHT AND NO WOMAN'S VOICE HAS WHISPERED WORDS OF LOVE! BECAUSE YOU, DERCK WINTERS, ARE ONE OF THE UGLIEST MEN ON EARTH!



AND NO MATTER HOW MANY MIRRORS YOU BREAK, YOU CAN'T CHANGE YOUR FACE! YOU'RE UGLY...UGLY...UGLY!

OH YES, THERE WERE **SOME** GIRLS WHO MIGHT HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU...BUT YOU NEVER GAVE THEM A CHANCE! THERE WAS EMILY FOR INSTANCE...



AND THERE WAS JANICE... SHE COULDN'T SEE WITH HER EYES, BUT SHE SAW WITH HER HEART...



YOU LEFT HER, DERCK, REMEMBER? BECAUSE YOU WERE AFRAID OF WHAT PEOPLE MIGHT SAY! AFRAID PEOPLE WOULD SAY THAT ONLY A GIRL WHO COULDN'T SEE YOUR hideous FEATURES WOULD LOVE YOU!



AND THRU THE YEARS YOU DWELLED IN A LONELINESS OF YOUR OWN MAKING! YOU WERE ASHAMED TO GET A JOB, ASHAMED TO MEET NEW PEOPLE, ASHAMED TO WALK THE STREETS... YOUR UGLINESS WAS LIKE A PRISON WALL... AND YOU WERE THE PRISONER WITHIN!

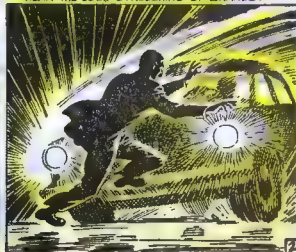
YOU STAND AND LOOK DOWN AT THE SHATTERED PIECES OF GLASS WHICH LIE AT YOUR FEET... A NEW FEAR STRIKES YOUR BRAIN... THE FEAR THAT YOU'RE GOING MAD!

YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT! GOT TO WALK THRU THE STREETS... BREATHE THE EVENING AIR... ESCAPE FROM THE FOUR WALLS WHICH HAVE BEEN CLOSING IN ON YOU FOR YEARS!



IT'S RAINING OUT... BUT YOU WALK THRU THE STORM WITHOUT FEELING THE DROPS... THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING FATEFUL ABOUT THIS EVENING... AS THOUGH SOMETHING STRANGE IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN... AS THOUGH YOU'RE KEEPING A DATE WITH DESTINY!

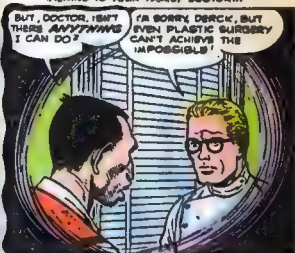
YOU CROSS A STREET WITHOUT LOOKING FOR CARS... AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT TWO DEADLY BRIGHT HEADLIGHTS CATCH YOU IN THEIR BEAM, AND YOU HEAR THE LOUD SCREECHING OF BRAKES!



AND THEN, THE HORRIBLE MOMENT OF IMPACT! AND THE WHOLE WORLD SPINNING AROUND IN A CRAZY WHIRL!



IN THE HALF-DARKNESS, MEMORIES COME TUMBLING THRU YOUR BRAIN... TIME LOSES ITS MEANING... AND YOU SEEM TO BE TEN YEARS YOUNGER AGAIN... TALKING TO YOUR FAMILY DOCTOR...



BUT, DOCTOR, ISN'T THERE **ANYTHING** I CAN DO?

I'M SORRY, DECK, BUT EVEN PLASTIC SURGERY CAN'T ACHIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE!



YOU MEAN THERE'S NO PLASTIC SURGEON IN THE WORLD WHO CAN CHANGE MY FACE... WHO CAN MAKE ME LOOK LESS MONSTROUS?

WELL... THERE IS **ONE**...

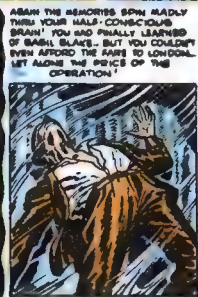


TELL ME, MAN... TELL ME: WHO IS HE? WHERE IS HE? I'VE GOT TO KNOW!

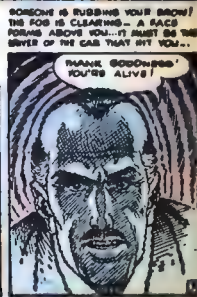
STOP IT... YOU'RE CHOKING ME! I'LL TELL YOU...



HIS NAME IS BASHI BLAKS... HE'S THE GREATEST LIVING PLASTIC SURGEON... HE'S THE **ONLY ONE** WHO COULD FIX YOUR FACE... BUT HE'S IN LONDON... AND HIS FEE IS 10,000 DOLLARS AN OPERATION!



AGAIN THE MEMORIES SPIN MADLY THRU YOUR MIND... CONSCIOUSNESS... YOU HAD FINALLY LEARNED OF BASHI BLAKS... BUT YOU COULDN'T EVEN AFFORD THE FARE TO LONDON... LET ALONE THE PRICE OF THE OPERATION!



SOMEONE IS RUBBING YOUR BROW! THE FOG IS CLEARING... A RACE FORMS ABOVE YOU... IT MUST BE THE DRIVER OF THE CAR THAT HIT YOU...

THANK GODDONES! YOU'RE ALIVE!

THE FACE WHICH STARES DOWN AT YOU IS A HAND-SOME FACE, A CULTURED FACE! THE KIND OF FACE WHICH NATURE CREATED YOU OUT OF! YOU HATE THE MAN BEHIND THAT FACE AS MUCH AS YOU'VE EVER HATED ANYTHING IN YOUR LIFE!



YOU LOOK AROUND... THE STREETS ARE DESERTED. THERE ARE NO ENTREPRENEURS... ONLY YOU, AND THE DRUNKEN DRIVER, AND THE POUNDING RAINING GAIN IN THE BLACK NIGHT!



HE TAKES OUT A BILL FROM HIS WALLET AS CASUALLY AS YOU MIGHT TAKE A CIGARETTE FROM YOUR POCKET, AND HE SAYS...



YOU SEE THE CAR THRU THE POUNDING RAIN... IT'S A LATE MODEL CADILLAC! YOUR MIND IS WORKING AT FEVER PITCH! THE MAN IS WEALTHY... THIS IS YOUR CHANCE... SEIZE YOUR OPPORTUNITY!



YOU SEE HIM TAKE A WALLET OUT OF HIS POCKET... IT'S A LARGE, THICK WALLET... MADE OF IMPORTED PIGSKIN... AND WITHIN IT, YOU CATCH A GLIMPSE OF BILLS... MANY, MANY BILLS...



AS YOU TAKE THE \$500 BILL, YOUR MIND IS RACING... HIS WALLET IS FULL OF SUCH BILLS... HE MUST BE CARRYING FORTUNES WITH HIM! HE MIGHT BE CARRYING ENOUGH TO BUY YOU THAT OPERATION FROM BACK SLACKS!



YOU COME TOWARD HIM, YOUR HANDS REACHING FOR HIS NECK...



YOU MUST BE MAD! I WON'T GIVE YOU ANOTHER CENT MORE!

OH YES YOU WILL! I'LL TAKE IT ALL!

YOUR GRIPPING FINGERS CLOSE UPON HIS NECK... AND YOU BEGIN TO SQUEEZE!! HE CAN'T CRY OUT... HE STRUGGLES... HE GASPS... BUT STILL YOU SQUEEZE!



YOU'VE LOST ALL SENSE OF REASON... ALL SANITY! ONLY ONE THOUGHT ECHOES OVER AND OVER IN YOUR MIND... BASIL BLAKE... THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD WHO CAN FIX YOUR FACE... BASIL BLAKE... BASIL BLAKE...



SMALL... HE STRUGGLES NO LONGER... YOUR QUIVERING FINGERS RELEASE HIS LIMP FORM... IT'S ALL OVER! HE'S DEAD! HIS WALLET IS YOURS!



AND THEN THE JOKE HITS YOU... THE FUNNY, MYSTERICAL, UNDESPIITING JOKE! YOU BEGIN TO LAUGH... WILD, UNCONTROLLABLE PEARLS OF MANIACAL LAUGHTER WHICH ECHO AND RE-ECHO THRU THE SILENT STREETS!



GREEDILY, MURDEROUSLY YOU TEAR THE BILLS FROM THE POCKET... EACH BILL BRINGING YOU CLOSER TO YOUR DREAM OF A NEW FACE! SWEAT POURS DOWN YOUR BROW... YOUR HANDS SHAKE IN EXCITEMENT... HE WAS CARRYING A FORTUNE WITH HIM!



YOU'RE STILL LAUGHING WHEN THE POLICE COME AND LEAD YOU AWAY... THE HANDCUFFS ARE SLIPPED ON YOU, BUT YOU STILL HOLD FAST TO THE CARD YOU FOUND IN YOUR VICTIM'S POCKET... THE CARD ON WHICH HIS NAME WAS PRINTED...



THE END

LET'S LEAVE "LAUGHING BOY" TO HIS FATE AND SEE WHAT'S COOKING WITH RUDI!
WE'RE CERTAIN YOU NEVER HEARD OF A CRIME CAPER AS UNUSUAL AS THIS
ONE! GUNS? NOPE! KNIVES? UNUM! EXPLOSIVES? NOTHING DOING! THIS
ESCAPADE ONLY REQUIRES SOME OF THAT NEW, AMAZING STUFF CALLED...

EXPLOSIONS



YOU LET YOUR FLASHING ORBS BURN DEEP INTO THE DOUBTER, AND YOUR CHANTING VOICE CLEARS AWAY THE MOOD'S THIN SHROUD OF WILL POWER...





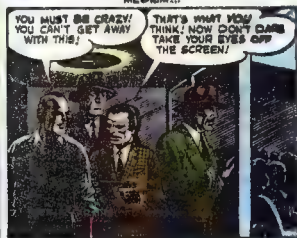
SO YOU AND YOUR GANG OF HOOBS GO TO A LOCAL THEATRE...



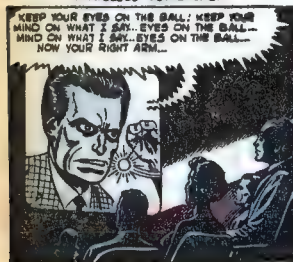
MINUTES LATER...



THE AUDIENCE HARDLY STIRS WHEN THE IMAGE OF RUDE THE GREAT SNAPS OUT AT THEM FROM THE THREE-DIMENSIONAL SCREEN! THEY ARE USED TO STRANGE THINGS FROM THIS NEW, REALISTIC MEDIUM...



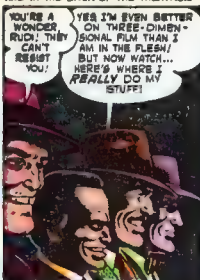
EVERYONE IN THE AUDIENCE SITS AS THOUGH ENTRANCED... YOUR VOICE DRONES ON AND ON LIKE A TIMELESS METRONOME...



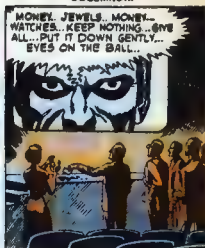
THE AUDIENCE HEARS AND OBEYS...



AND IN THE BACK OF THE THEATRE...



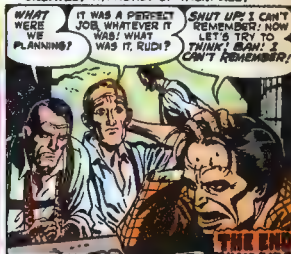
LIKE SO MANY SHEEP THE ENTIRE AUDIENCE RISES AND WALKS TO THE STAGE, IN NEAT, ORDERLY COLUMNS...



THEY COME AND THEY ARE FLEECEED AND FROM THE EXPRESSIONS ON THEIR FACES, THEY LOVE IT... AND NOTHING IS HEARD BUT YOUR SIREN SONG...



AND SO, RUDI, YOUR LITTLE SCHEME BOOMERANGED... BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... YOU ARE THE GREATEST HYPNOTIST OF THEM ALL!



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2346-2350, 2351-2355, 2356-2360, 2361-2365, 2366-2370, 2371-2375, 2376-2380, 2381-2385, 2386-2390, 2391-2395, 2396-2400, 2401-2405, 2406-2410, 2411-2415, 2416-2420, 2421-2425, 2426-2430, 2431-2435, 2436-2440, 2441-2445, 2446-2450, 2451-2455, 2456-2460, 2461-2465, 2466-2470, 2471-2475, 2476-2480, 2481-2485, 2486-2490, 2491-2495, 2496-2500, 2501-2505, 2506-2510, 2511-2515, 2516-2520, 2521-2525, 2526-2530, 2531-2535, 2536-2540, 2541-2545, 2546-2550, 2551-2555, 2556-2560, 2561-2565, 2566-2570, 2571-2575, 2576-2580, 2581-2585, 2586-2590, 2591-2595, 2596-2600, 2601-2605, 2606-2610, 2611-2615, 2616-2620, 2621-2625, 2626-2630, 2631-2635, 2636-2640, 2641-2645, 2646-2650, 2651-2655, 2656-2660, 2661-2665, 2666-2670, 2671-2675, 2676-2680, 2681-2685, 2686-2690, 2691-2695, 2696-2700, 2701-2705, 2706-2710, 2711-2715, 2716-2720, 2721-2725, 2726-2730, 2731-2735, 2736-2740, 2741-2745, 2746-2750, 2751-2755, 2756-2760, 2761-2765, 2766-2770, 2771-2775, 2776-2780, 2781-2785, 2786-2790, 2791-2795, 2796-2800, 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HERE'S THE WINDUP TO OUR DELIGHTFUL QUINTET! WE WANT TO LEAVE YOU WITH A WELL-EARNED SPINE-KNOCKER, SO FEAST YOUR OPTICS ON GRUESOME GUSTAV! THE BOY IS HANDY WITH A WOOD CARVER'S KNIVES... BUT HE'S SURE AND THAT OTHER CREEPS CAN BE CUTE CUT-UPS, TOO!

THE WOODEN WOMAN

IT IS THE YEAR 1758, AND YOU ARE HARD AT WORK, GUSTAV, IN YOUR LITTLE COTTAGE IN THE CROSS-ROADS IN ANNIERS, FRANCE...

BEHIND THOSE SHUTTERS AND LOCKED DOORS THAT SHUT OUT THE OUTSIDE WORLD, YOU ARE ALWAYS BUNCHED OVER YOUR WORK...

AND AS YOU WORK YOUR THOUGHTS SURROUND YOU WITH BEAUTIFUL MAIDS...

WHILE YOUR GNARLED HANDS CREATE THE GROTESQUE WOODEN HORRORS YOU ARE FAMOUS FOR...



YOU ADMIRE YOUR CREATIONS WITH GREAT JOY...UNTIL THE HEAVY FOMAL OF A MILITARY SWORD BEATS UPON YOUR DOOR...



STOP THAT INFERNAL KNOCKING! 'GO AWAY.' IF YOU ARE A NEIGHBOR...I HAVE NO TIME FOR VISITING! AND IF YOU ARE A LOST WAYFARER...I HAVE NO FOOD OR LODGING! **GG-GONG!**



SUDDENLY THE DOOR SMASHES OPEN...AND FRAMED IN THE DOORWAY THERE STANDS A STERN, LITTLE MAN IN THE UNIFORM OF A HIGH FRENCH OFFICER...

AND WHAT IF IT IS NAPOLEON BONAPARTE WHO KNOCKS?



NAPOLEON BONAPARTE! NOW CHIEF OF THOUSANDS! RABBIT-MONSTER! I DON'T KNOW!



AND IS IT ALSO YOUR IGNORANCE OR YOUR ARROGANCE WHICH PUTS YOU TO LABOR FOR SEA RAIDERS AND PRATES? THIS MONSTER'S HEAD CAN ONLY BE CHOPPED BY THE GASPHELYT!

YOU HAVE A SHARP EYE, MONSIEUR! BUT IT IS ONLY PRATES AND SEA RAIDERS WHO BUY MY FORTUNE! AND A MAN MUST LIVE!

IT IS SO BECAUSE YOUR MIND IS AS WARPED AS YOUR HANDS! YOU CAN ONLY CARVE THE UGLINESS IN THE WORLD! WHY NOT CARVE BEAUTY? SCULPTURE OR LOVELY WOMEN!



WOMAN...BAM! I SPIT A CURSE UPON THEM ALL! MY KNIVES AND WOOD WILL NEVER IMMORTALIZE A WOMAN! THAT IS THEIR PUNISHMENT FOR GICKERING AT ME BEHIND THEIR SILKEN PANE!



BUT I'VE COME ALL THE DISTANCE FROM PARIS TO COMMISSION YOU TO CARVE A FOURTHHEAD OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN FOR MY GIRL...TO REWARD ME OF MY SCULPTURE WHEN I DIE!



NO...I WON'T!

NEVER WILL I CARVE A WOODEN WOMAN!

CARVE, GUSTAV...OR I WILL CARVE YOU!



SO YOU CARVE, GUSTAV! THE FOLLOWING MORNING YOU SLAM AT THE WOOD WITH ANGRY STROKES...



BUT ON THE SECOND DAY YOU ARE GENTLE... AND UNDER THE MAGIC OF YOUR SKILLED HANDS, A FACE BEGINS TO APPEAR...



BY THE SEVENTH DAY, THE FACE HAS A BODY...



AND TWO WEEKS LATER YOU YOURSELF ARE AMAZED AT THE BEAUTY YOU HAVE CREATED...



A WOODEN WOMAN... BUT I... I FEEL AS IF SHE WERE REAL... AS IF I HAD MET HER SOMEWHERE BEFORE!

YES... YES! NOW I KNOW! SHE WAS IN MY THOUGHTS... ALL THESE LONELY YEARS, I SAT HERE AND CARVED... AND DREAMED! I HATED WOMEN... HATED THEM BECAUSE THEY HATED ME AND MY UGLY FACE! BUT A HUMAN... I HAVE A HEART... I HAVE FEELINGS... AND I WANT A WOMAN TO LOVE ME!



HEY, IN THERE! OPEN UP! WE'RE MESSENGERS FROM NAPOLEON BONAPARTE! IS THE SQUIREHEAD FOR HIS SHIP READY?

NO... NO! TELL NAPOLEON I MUST HAVE MORE TIME... ANOTHER WEEK!



YOU LIE, GUSTAV. SO YOU MIGHT HAVE A WEEK TO ADMIRE YOUR CREATION...

ANOTHER DAY TO SIT HERE... TO FEAST MY EYES UPON A WOMAN WHO DOESN'T TURN HER HEAD FROM ME! WHY MUST THEY BE SO CRUEL? WHY CAN'T THEY ALL BE LIKE YOU? WHY DO YOU LOOK SO KINDLY AT ME?

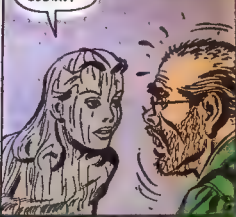


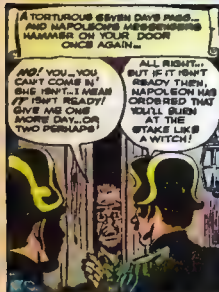
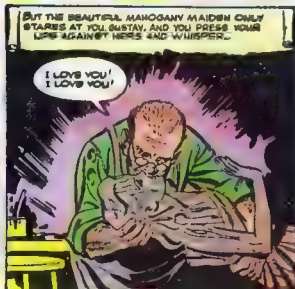
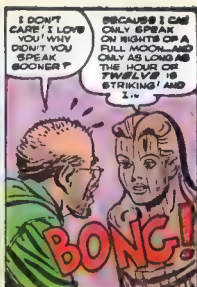
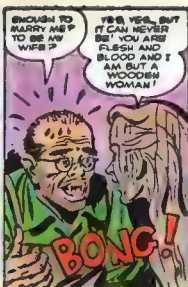
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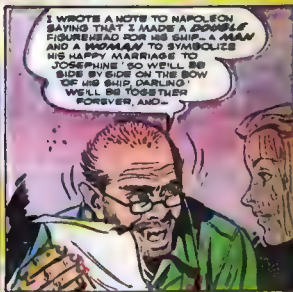
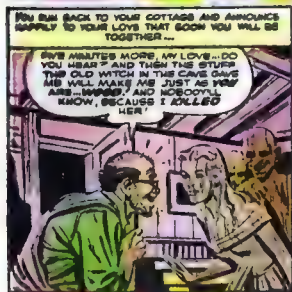
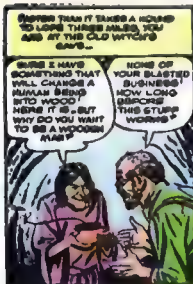


THE WOODEN WOMAN'S LIPS MOVE... AND YOU TREMBLE WITH AMAZEMENT AS SHE ANSWERS YOUR QUESTION!

BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, GUSTAV!







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